

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2512

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 2393

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, PINT, RO

SUBJ: ROMANIAN DISSIDENCE

REF: BUCHAREST 2389

1. REFTEL REFERS TO DETENTION BY ROMANIAN SECURITY
AUTHORITIES OF HISTORIAN VLUA GEORGESCU WHO IS
WELL KNOWN TO A NUMBER OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS.
HE HAS LIKEWISE BEEN VERY WELL REGARDED BY ROMANIANS
LIKE MIRCEA MALITA WHO SUGGESTED HIM AS AN ESCORT
FOR JIM BILLINTON OF THE WOODROW WILSON CENTER.
HE IS ALSO A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE, AND DEPARTMENT
SHOULD BE AWARE THAT A DAY OR TWO BEFORE HIS ARREST
HE LEFT WITH ME COPIES OF SEVERAL DOCUMENTS INCLUDING
A DISSIDENT MANIFESTO AND A CRITICAL (AND IN HIS OWN WORDS DAMAGING)
ANALYSIS OF EVOLVING RCP ATTITUDES TOWARD THE MAJOR
PROBLEMS OF ROMANIAN HISTORY; FORMATION OF THE ROM-
MANIAN PEOPLE, ROMANIAN-RUSSIAN/SOVIET RELATIONS,
PRE-WORLEWAR II ROLE OF THE RCP. (I HAD EARLIER
EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN READING WHAT HE WAS NOW
WRITING. WE WERE AT MY HOME AND NO ONE ELSE SAW HIM HAND ME
ANYTHING.) HIS HOPE HAD BEEN TO INTEREST A NUMBER OF
HIS FELLOW INTELLECTUALS IN FORMING A POLISH OR
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SOVIET-LIKE COMMITTEE TO MONITOR CSCE HUMAN RIGHTS
PROBLEMS, BUT FIRST HE WANTED TO GET HIS MANIFESTO
PUBLISHED. THIS HE INTENDED TO DO LATER IN APRIL
THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES OF A VISITING AMERICAN
SCHOLAR WHO COULD SEEK THE HELP OF THE EMINENT
ROMANIAN CULTURAL FIGURE MIRCEA ELIADE OF CHICAGO
AND PARIS. HE ALSO HOPED FOR ELIADE'S HELP WITH HIS

HISTORICAL PAMPHLET. HIS DECISION TO MOVE TOWARD
OPEN DISSIDENCE HE SAID WAS A VERY
RECENT ONE
BROUGHT ON IN GOOD PART BY REJECTION OF HIS LATEST
BOOK BUT CLEARLY NOT LIMITED TO THAT.

2. HE TOLD ME THAT NIGHT I SAW HIM THAT HE WAS
BEING FOLLOWED, BUT OBVIOUSLY DID NOT EXPECT TO BE
DETAINED SINCE WE AGREED TO MEET AGAIN AFTER EASTER
WHEN I RETURNED FROM A TRIP. THE ROMANIAN AUTH-
ORITIES KNOW OF OUR FRIENDSHIP SINCE NEITHER ONE OF US
HAS KEPT IT SECRET. I CANNOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY
THAT HIS DETENTION IS NOT ONLY A WARNING TO HIM AND
OTHERS LIKE HIM, BUT POSSIBLY ALSO TO THE US AND
TO ME. UNLESS HE HIMSELF WANTS TO SEVER ANY
CONNECTIONS I WILL PLAN TO CONTINUE TO SEE HIM FROM
TIME TO TIME IN AS NORMAL AND PRUDENT A FASHION AS POSSIBLE
UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. WE WILL BE REPORTING
FURTHER ABOUT HIS PART IN OUR COVERAGE OF
DISSIDENCE BUT I FELT IT IMPORTANT THAT DEPARTMENT
BE AWARE AT THIS EARLY STAGE OF THE ABOVE FACTORS.
BARNES

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